

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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**-- DRAFT --**

Paul Jacks
Deputy Director, Response and Recovery
Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Jessica Cummins
Deputy Director, Planning and Emergency Preparedness
Governor's Office of Homeland Security

Dear Mr. Jacks and Ms. Cummins:

Recent national and regional events have underscored the need for heightened preparedness to address large-scale emergencies and disasters, whether natural or human-caused. Pursuing such preparedness requires the combined efforts and partnership of many diverse entities. These efforts are not easy. In our increasingly complex society, such tasks require a heightened commitment to the health, safety and welfare of our public, a dedication to innovate, and the unified leadership and vision of diverse individuals and jurisdictions. Advanced coordination is the key to jointly addressing challenging issues in emergency management.

In that context, I am writing to inform you of an innovative and critical planning effort taking shape in the Bay-Delta region under the facilitative leadership of the Delta Protection Commission (DPC). The DPC is in an excellent position to be the core organization to facilitate local discussions for addressing these issues and become a catalyst for progressive change. The DPC—with support from its diverse membership of city, county, state agency, and local stakeholders—could serve as a model for collaborative efforts throughout the region, and indeed, the state. Through its esteemed Commissioners, the DPC brings crucial experience to the challenge for this area and provides the diversity and commitment that is required to provide a forum for addressing what is increasingly recognized as a regional challenge. In an area as geographically and culturally unique as the Delta, it is a challenge for a county or group to effectively plan solely on their own. In late June, elected officials and emergency response leaders from the 5 county region met to discuss these challenges at a summit sponsored by the DPC. The clear outcome was a strong commitment to move forward and address these disaster challenges together.

Mr. Jacks and Ms. Cummins, the DPC would like to ask for a confirmation from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (OHS) that this form of multi-jurisdictional regional planning is one that is consistent with the ongoing statewide efforts to integrate local and regional preparedness efforts. Further, with California's focus areas of citizen preparedness; integration of the new National Incident Management System and National Response Plan; comprehensive catastrophic planning; and effective use of federal grant funding for maximum benefit in California—the DPC feels confident that this collaborative approach to emergency disasters in the Delta will yield extremely valuable benefits for residents and governmental entities alike. DPC would also like to suggest that OES and OHS consider taking the DWR model (earthquake scenario) and apply an emergency response planning exercise in the Delta region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of supporting the DPC's leadership in this critical planning area and partnering with us as the effort takes shape. We look forward to your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Mike McGowan
Chair

cc: Linda Fiack, Executive Director